

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY BONN

S E C R E T STATE 200014

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, ETEL, GW, US

SUBJECT: RFE/RL HOLZKIRCHEN MODERNIZATION

REF: BONN 12578

FOR THE AMBASSADOR

1. THE DEPARTMENT AND WHITE HOUSE HAVE REVIEWED THIS
QUESTION ON THE BASIS OF YOUR REPORT (REFTEL) CONCERNING
DISCUSSIONS DURING CHANCELLOR SCHMIDT'S JULY 13-14 VISIT.

2. YOU ARE INSTRUCTED TO SEEK AN APPOINTMENT WITH STATE
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SECRETARY SCHUELER AS SOON AS POSSIBLE TO MAKE A PRESENTA-
TION BASED ON THE FOLLOWING AIDE-MEMOIRE. YOU ARE
AUTHORIZED TO DRAW ON ITS TEXT IN MAKING YOUR POINTS
ORALLY. YOU SHOULD LEAVE THE AIDE-MEMOIRE WITH SCHUELER
AND REPORT HIS REACTION.

3. BEGIN TEXT.

AIDE MEMOIRE

PRESIDENT CARTER HAS GIVEN THOROUGH CONSIDERATION TO THE QUESTION OF REPLACING THE FOUR 10 KW TRANSMITTERS AT

HOLZKIRCHEN WITH FOUR NEW 250 KW TRANSMITTERS, AS HE HAD PROMISED CHANCELLOR SCHMIDT HE WOULD DO DURING THEIR TALKS IN WASHINGTON JULY 13-14, 1977. THE PRESIDENT HAS CONCLUDED THAT REPLACEMENT OF THE TRANSMITTERS IS NECESSARY TO OUR OVERALL BROADCASTING EFFORT TO EASTERN EUROPE AND THE SOVIET UNION. THIS CONCLUSION IS BASED ON THE RESULTS OF A RECENT DETAILED STUDY OF THE U.S. INTERNATIONAL BROADCASTING EFFORT, WHICH REVEALED THAT THE CURRENT OVERALL CAPACITY OF 400KW WOULD BE ELEVEN PERCENT BELOW THE MINIMUM LEVEL REQUIRED FOR EFFECTIVE BROADCASTING INTO EASTERN EUROPE AND THE USSR, EVEN IF ALL GOVERNMENTS IN THE AREA WERE TO CEASE JAMMING, WHICH SOME HAVE SHOWN LITTLE INDICATION OF DOING.

WE HAVE FURTHER CONCLUDED THAT RADIO FREE EUROPE AND RADIO LIBERTY PLAY A VERY IMPORTANT ROLE IN THE EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION AND THE SUPPORT OF WESTERN AND DEMOCRATIC VALUES. THE AUDIENCES FOR THESE STATIONS IN THE SOVIET UNION AND EASTERN EUROPE HAVE COME TO DEPEND IN VARYING DEGREES ON THEIR BROADCASTS FOR A BALANCED AND COMPRE-
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HENSIVE VIEW OF INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENTS.

OUR REQUEST TO UPGRADE THE HOLZKIRCHEN FACILITY IS A CONTINUATION OF A PROCESS TO MODERNIZE RADIO FREE EUROPE/RADIO LIBERTY FACILITIES IN EUROPE. AS FAR AS GERMANY IS CONCERNED IT GOES BACK TO THE LATE NINETEEN-SIXTIES WHEN AUTHORIZATION WAS GRANTED BY THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC TO REPLACE FOUR OLDER AND LOWER-POWERED TRANSMITTERS AT LAMPERTHEIM WITH FOUR 250 KW TRANSMITTERS. BUDGETARY RESTRICTIONS PREVENTED OUR REPLACING THE TRANSMITTERS AT THAT TIME. A FORMAL REQUEST TO UPGRADE THE HOLZKIRCHEN PLANT WAS MADE ON FEBRUARY 24, 1976 AND ON JUNE 9, 1976 FRG AUTHORIZATION WAS GIVEN TO BUILD SIX 100 KW TRANSMITTERS IN HOLZKIRCHEN. THIS AUTHORIZATION WAS SUBSEQUENTLY REDUCED TO THE REPLACEMENT OF FOUR EXISTING 10 KW TRANSMITTERS BY FOUR 100 KW TRANSMITTERS. HOWEVER, ON THE BASIS OF A PRESIDENTIAL STUDY OF VOICE OF AMERICA AND RADIO FREE EUROPE/RADIO LIBERTY TECHNICAL DEFICIENCIES REQUESTED BY CONGRESS IN THE SUMMER OF 1976, COMPLETED IN DECEMBER 1976, AND SENT TO CONGRESS IN MARCH 1977, WE ASKED THAT THE LICENSE FOR THE FOUR 100 KW TRANSMITTERS BE UPGRADED TO FOUR 250 KW.

THE UNITED STATES WISHES TO EMPHASIZE THAT THERE WILL NOT BE ANY INCREASE IN THE NUMBER OF FREQUENCIES OR TRANSMITTERS. IT WAS WITH THIS CONSIDERATION IN MIND THAT, FOLLOWING DISCUSSIONS WITH THE MINISTRY OF POST, THE UNITED STATES AGREED TO REVISE ITS ORIGINAL REQUEST

MADE IN FEBRUARY 1976 FOR SIX 100 KW TRANSMITTERS TO THE CURRENT PENDING APPLICATION FOR FOUR 250 KW TRANSMITTERS.

THE UNITED STATES REQUESTS THAT THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC AGREE TO LICENSE THE FOUR 250 KW TRANSMITTERS AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. END TEXT.

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CHRISTOPHER

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